Novel miRNA-mRNA interactions conserved in essential cancer pathways

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SUPPLEMENTARY TEXT

Transcriptome analysis of individual tumours.

RNAseq data from more than eleven thousand normal and tumour samples obtained from cancer patients with 15 different tumour types were included in the study (see Supplementary Table 1 for details). Differential expression analyses were performed to identify deregulated genes and miRNAs. Only those exhibiting reliable FDR values (FDR<0.05) and significantly altered expression (absolute log2FC greater than 1) were selected for further analysis. Kidney renal clear cell (KIRC) and bladder carcinoma (BLCA) were the two tumours with more differentially expressed genes and miRNAs (334 and 399, respectively). In contrast, Thyroid (THCA) and Prostate carcinomas (PRAD) had the lowest number of altered genes and miRNAs (61 genes in both types of tumour, and 94 and 97 miRNAs, respectively).

Pathway enrichment: We next studied the enrichment of these differentially expressed genes to identify relevant pathways (Fisher adjusted p-value <0.05: see methods). ESCA, BLCA, BRCA, LIHC and LUSC were the tumour types with more positively enriched pathways (Figure 2). Odd ratios and p-values for each pathway and tumour type are shown in Supplementary table 2.

When studying differentially expressed genes according to the pathway in which they act, ESCA, BLCA, BRCA, LIHC and LUSC were the tumour types with the highest number of differentially expressed genes in pathways such as DNA replication, cell cycle and telomere elongation, thereby promoting proliferation compared to normal cells. Interestingly, the GLOBOCAN study carried out by the World Health Organization, designated lung, liver, stomach, breast and oesophagus tumours as among the most aggressive cancers due to their high rate of mortality (1). When comparing the pathways in all cancer types, we inferred that pathways related to cancer inhibition

(apoptosis, necrosis and senescence or DDR) were frequently depleted in differentially expressed genes, a striking trend for apoptosis in 14 of the 15 tumours studied. This is consistent with the fact that avoiding programmed cell death through the inhibition of cell death signals is one of the hallmarks in cancer biology (2).

Gene differential expression analysis: The deregulated genes identified in an analysis of 11,738 samples from 15 individual tumour types were studied in detail (see methods). The number of deregulated genes is shown in Figure 1 where 228 were identified in BLCA samples, 212 genes in BRCA and 175 in STAD. In these types of cancer, the deregulation of the tumour suppressor GSN (Gelsolin) exhibited the highest statistical significance. In CHOL samples, 260 deregulated genes were identified. Among them. deregulation of CD14 exhibited the highest statistical significance. In ESCA samples, 208 genes were altered and MYPT2/PPP1R12B was the most significantly deregulated. In KICH, KIRC and KIRP kidney tumour samples, the expression of 126, 143 and 334 genes were found differentially expressed, respectively. HSPA2 was commonly altered in kidney tumours and TAU (MAPT) was one of the most strongly deregulated genes of the 154 genes altered in HNSC. In hepatocellular carcinomas (LIHC), the deregulation of 192 genes was significant, being UBE2T the one exhibiting the highest statistical significance. In the case of lung tumours (LUAD and LUSC), TUBB1 was the most strongly deregulated gene of the 198 and 202 genes in these tumour samples, respectively. By contrast, UNC5B was the most statistically significant deregulated gene in prostate adenocarcinoma (PRAD) of the 79 deregulated genes identified. Of the 46 statistically altered genes identified in Thyroid tumours, BBC3 (also known as PUMA) showed the highest statistically significant deregulation. Finally, from the 292 genes in UCEC, SYNE was the most statistically significant deregulated gene. All details about the differentially expressed genes in each tumour type are shown in Supplementary Table 6.

When considering individual tumour types, our results are consistent with previous findings. Most of our inferred over-expressed genes are known oncogenes, and the majority of the inhibited genes are tumour suppressors. Indeed, the tumour suppressor GSN (Gelsolin) was the found repressed in bladder (BLAC), breast (BRCA) and stomach (STAD) tumours, as seen elsewhere (3-5). CD14 in cholangiocarcinoma, MYPT2 in oesophageal carcinoma and UNC5B in prostate tumours are all known markers for cell invasion (6-8). In kidney cancers, HSPA2 was the most commonly altered gene in KICH, KIRC and KIRP tumours, where its repression has been related to cancer growth and metastasis (9). TAU (MAPT), the most deregulated gene in head and neck (HNSC) tumours, is known to be related to apoptosis and TP53 expression (10). In hepatocellular carcinomas (LICH), however, the most significant gene was UBE2T, whose over-expression has been found to be associated with oncogenic properties such as tumour growth and metastatic invasion in liver patients (11). In the case of lung tumours (LUAD and LUSC), the most significantly deregulated gene in both types of cancer was TUBB1 (Tubulin Beta 1), which encodes for a GTPase protein involved in microtubules formation. The role of microtubules in cancer is known (12) and some authors have confirmed a relationship among tubulin and resistance to chemotherapy in lung cancer (13). In thyroid tumours, BBC3 (also known as PUMA) was the most severely deregulated gene. This gene has been found to be implicated in cell proliferation (14). Finally, SYNE1 was the most strongly deregulated gene in uterine cancer, consistent with previous findings (15).

miRNA differential expression analysis: Differential expression analysis of 6,867 small RNASeq samples from 15 different tumours types was also performed

(summarized in Figure 1). Briefly, as previously found when comparing gene transcriptional data, BLCA, BRCA and STAD exhibited similar miRNA expression profiles. Thus, several tumour suppressor miRNAs were apparently repressed, such as miR-139, miR-143/145 or miR-195. Other tumour suppressor miRNAs that were inhibited, as well as over-expressed oncomiRs, were found in the remaining tumour types. Among these, the oncomiRs miR-182 in CHOL, miR-148a in ESCA, miR-381 in HNSC were particularly noteworthy, as were the anti-oncomiR miR-184, miR-222 and miR-508 in KIRCH, KIRP and KIRC, respectively. MiR-424 was the most significantly deregulated miRNA in hepatocellular carcinoma. In lung cancer, repression of the tumour suppressor miRNAs, miR-139 (in LUAD) and miR-30d (in LUSC), was evident. In PRAD, miR-891a from the oncogenic miR-888 cluster was the most statistically significant over-expressed miRNA. In contrast, the most statistically significant deregulated miRNAs in THCA were miR-4709 and miR-146b. Tumour suppressor miR-202 was found downregulated in uterine tumours. For details regarding the differentially expressed miRNAs in each tumour type, please refer to Supplementary Table 7.

Our results revealed that most of the up-regulated miRNAs can be classified as oncomiRs (miR-184, miR-891a from the miR-888 cluster, or miR-96 from the miR-183 cluster), while tumour-suppressor miRNAs tend to be inhibited. Indeed, miR-139, miR-143/145 and miR-195 were the most strongly repressed miRNAs in BRCA, BLCA and STAD, as previously described (16-18), and the miR-381 species were the most differentially expressed miRNA in HNSC, consistent with previous findings (19). Silencing of miR-424 in hepatocellular carcinoma has been associated with accelerated cell proliferation, migration and invasion (23). In lung cancer, we found the tumour suppressor miRNAs miR-139 and miR-30d repressed in LUAD and LUSC, respectively, which is consistent with previous findings (24, 25). The miR-891a of the oncogenic

miR-888 cluster was the most strongly altered miRNA in prostate cancer. This miRNA has been related to prostate cancer growth (26). In thyroid tumours, the most strongly deregulated miRNAs were miR-4709 and miR-146b, as previously reported (27). The tumour suppressor miR-202 was the most strongly inhibited in uterine tumours. This miRNA has already been linked with endometrial carcinoma (28).

Supplementary Figures

Supplementary Figure 1. Effect of CNAs and methylation in expression .

Gene - miRNA correlation after correcting for CNAs and DNA methylation BLCA BRCA CHOL ESCA HNSC KIRC KIRC KIRP LIHC LUAD LUAD LUSC PRAD STAD STAD STAD hsa.let.7c.5p AURKB - hsa.miR.204.5p x 0 0 x x - 8 0 BUB1B hsa.let.7c.5p x 0 x 0 x x x CASC5 - hsa.miR.139.5p CCNE1 - hsa.miR.195.5p x | x CDC20 - hsa.miR.139.3p 0 0 X 0 0 0 X X 0 0 CDC45 - hsa.miR.490.3p - x x - - - x x x x - - x CENPA - hsa.miR.195.5p - x x - - - x x x x - - x 0.4 CENPK - hsa.miR.101.3p CENPK - hsa.miR.204.5p x | x | x | x | x | 0 | 0 | x | 0 CHEK1 - hsa.miR.195.5p • • × • • × × • • • x • 0.2 EZH2 hsa.let.7c.5p • | • | × | × | × | • | • | EZH2 - hsa.miR.195.5p • X X X X EZH2 - hsa.miR.497.5p | | | | | | | | | | | | | | FOS - hsa.miR.767.5p | x | x | - | x | x | - | - | x | x | - | x | HJURP - hsa.let.7c.5p x x x x - x 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 X HMGA2 - hsa.miR.139.3p x x x x x - 8 0 - x x - x x x ндикр hsa.let.7c.5p x 📵 x 💿 KIF20A - hsa.miR.145.5p 0 0 X 0 0 X 0 X 0 0 KIF20A - hsa.miR.490.3p _ _ _ _ × × × • _ × MCM2 - hsa.miR.139.3p x | x | x | x | x | x | 0 | • • • × x NCAPG - hsa.miR.145.3p X X X -0.4 NCAPG2 hsa.let.7c.5p x | x | x | x | x | x • • X PKMYT1 - hsa.miR.195.5p XXXX PKMYT1 - hsa.miR.497.5p | x | x | x | x | x | x | 0 | 0 | x SGOL1 - hsa.miR.195.5p | x | 0 | x | - | x | x | x | 0 | 0 | x | 0 | -SPC24 - hsa.miR.139.5p | • | • | • | • | × SPC24 - hsa.miR.145.5p x 8 -0.8 X X X

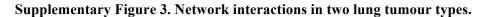
Correlation between gene expression and miRNA expression in the general gene-miRNA pairs. Correlation was analyzed by multifactorial lineal regression containing CNAs, gene methylation and miRNA expression as explanatory variables of gene expression. These analyses were performed individually for every gene-miRNA pair (rows) in every cancer type (columns), and in a joint analysis on all cancer types (column ALL) that also contained cancer type as explanatory variable. The size of the circles is proportional to absolute value of the correlation. Positive correlations are in blue. Negative correlations are in red. Regression models that did not reach statistical significance after FDR-multihypothesis correction (P<0.05) are marked with crosses. Models where either gen expression or miRNA expression was not detected are indicated with a dash.

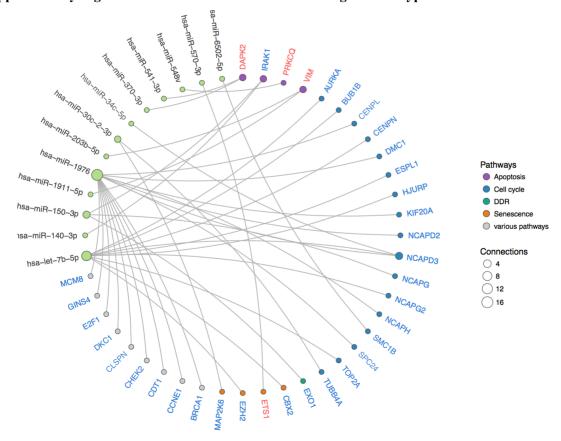
Supplementary Figure 2. Effect of CNAs and MET in pairs identified in lung

Gene - miRNA correlation after correcting for CNAs and DNA methylation

			LUAD LUSC ALL	
AURKA	_	hsa-let-7b-5p	HHA	r ¹
BRCA1	_	hsa-miR-1976	×	l
BUB1B	_	hsa-let-7b-5p		l
CBX2	_	hsa-let-7b-5p	×	l
CCNE1	_	hsa-miR-1976	X	0.8
CDT1	_	hsa-miR-1976		
CENPL	_	hsa-miR-1976		
CENPL	_	hsa-let-7b-5p		
CHEK2	_	hsa-miR-1976		0.6
CLSPN	_	hsa-miR-1976	×	
DAPK2	_	hsa-miR-370-3p	×	
DAPK2	_	hsa-miR-541-3p	X	
DKC1	_	hsa-miR-1976	• •	0.4
DMC1	_	hsa-miR-1976		
E2F1	_	hsa-miR-1976	×	
ESPL1		hsa-let-7b-5p		
ETS1	_	hsa-miR-570-3p		0.2
EXO1	_	hsa-miR-150-3p	X	
EZH2	Ξ	hsa-let-7b-5p		
GINS4	_	hsa-miR-1976		
HJURP	_	hsa-let-7b-5p		- 0
IRAK1	_	hsa-miR-140-3p		
IRAK1	_	hsa-miR-150-3p	×	
KIF20A	_	hsa-miR-1976	×	
MAP2K6	_	hsa-miR-30c-2-3p	^	-0.2
MCM8	_	hsa-miR-1976		
	_	hsa-miR-1976	×	
NCAPD3	_	hsa-let-7b-5p		
NCAPD3	_	hsa-miR-1976		-0.4
NCAPD3	_	hsa-miR-34c-5p		
	_	hsa-miR-150-3p	X	
NCAPG2	_	hsa-let-7b-5p		
	_	hsa-miR-1976	0 0 0	-0.6
	_	hsa-miR-548v	×	
_	_	hsa-miR-6502-5p	X	
SPC24	_	hsa-miR-1976		l
TOP2A	_	hsa-let-7b-5p	0 0 0	-0.8
TUBB4A	_	hsa-miR-30c-2-3p	0 0 0	l
VIM	_	hsa-miR-1911-5p	×	l
	_	hsa-miR-203b-5p	o X	l
				L _1

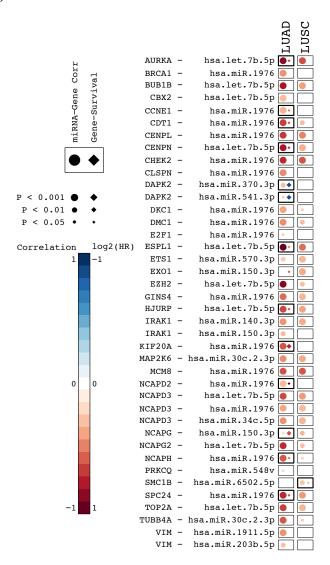
Correlation between gene expression and miRNA expression in the lung exclusive gene-miRNA pairs. Correlation was analyzed by multifactorial lineal regression containing CNAs, gene methylation and miRNA expression as explanatory variables of gene expression. These analyses were performed individually for every gene-miRNA pair (rows) in lung adenocarcinomas (LUAD) and lung squamous cancers (LUSC), and in a joint analysis on both cancer types (ALL) that also contained cancer type as explanatory variable. The size of the circles is proportional to absolute value of the correlation. Positive correlations are in blue. Negative correlations are in red. Regression models that did not reach statistical significance after FDR-multihypothesis correction (P<0.05) are marked with crosses. Models where either gen expression or miRNA expression was not detected are indicated with a dash..





Lung cancer (LUAD and LUSC) gene-miRNA interaction network. Blue fonts indicate activation, while red repression. The diameter of the circles indicates the number of established connections, and their colour indicate the pathway in which these genes participate.

Supplementary Figure 4. Survival with multifactorial Cox models in lung.



Combined correlation and survival analysis for the selected 40 lung-exclusive miRNA-gene pairs. Every box summarizes the results of the correlation and survival analysis of a miRNA-gene pair (rows) in a particular cancer type (columns). Circles represent miRNA-gene expression correlations, after accounting for CNAs and gene methylation. In red, negative correlations. In blue, positive correlations. Diamonds represent the log2 of the hazard ratio (HR) of Cox proportional hazards models that included tumor stage and the log-transformed gene expression values as explanatory variables. Positive log2(HR), i.e. shorter survival, in shades of red. Negative log2(HR), i.e. longer survival, in shades of blue. All P-values were corrected for multi-hypothesis testing by the FDR method. Pairs reaching statistical significance (Adj. P<0.05) in both miRNA-gen expression correlation and gene expression-survival association, are indicated with thicker boxes.

Supplementary tables.

Supplementary Table 1. TGCA samples included in this work.

Control and tumour samples are specified for each of the 15 tumours analysed.

		RNASeq			miRNASeq		
Tumour	Acronym	Control	Tumour	% control	Control	Tumour	% control
Kidney Chromophobe	KICH	25	66	37.88%	25	66	37.88%
Head and Neck squamous cell carcinoma	HNSC	39	472	8.26%	83	849	9.78%
Esophageal carcinoma	ESCA	13	184	7.07%	13	186	6.99%
Kidney renal papillary cell carcinoma	KIRP	32	240	13.33%	60	375	16.00%
Liver hepatocellular carcinoma	LIHC	50	268	18.66%	99	460	21.52%
Kidney renal clear cell carcinoma	KIRC	72	981	7.34%	142	1048	13.55%
Lung Adenocarcinoma	LUAD	58	513	11.31%	92	923	9.97%
Thyroid carcinoma	THAD	59	498	11.85%	118	910	12.97%
Prostate adenocarcinoma	PRAD	41	333	12.31%	102	635	16.06%
Bladder Urothelial Carcinoma	BLCA	19	414	4.59%	36	495	7.27%
Breast invasive carcinoma	BRCA	113	1134	9.96%	207	2000	10.35%
Lung squamous cell carcinoma	LUSC	50	490	10.20%	90	825	10.91%
Stomach adenocarcinoma	STAD	35	415	8.43%	74	683	10.83%
Cholangiocarcinoma	CHOL	9	36	25.00%	9	36	25.00%
Uterine Corpus Endometrial carcinoma	UCEC	39	169	23.08%	62	1035	5.99%
		Control	Tumour	RNASeq	Control	Tumour	miRNASeq
Totals		654	6213	6867	1212	10526	11738

Supplementary Table 2 (legend). Statistically significant deregulation of pathways for each tumor

This table is available as a separate file. The table includes pathway name, probability value and odd ratio of genes belonging to the pathway, and probability value and odd ratio of random genes used as control. Those in blue are statistically significant (Pvalue<0.05).

Supplementary Table 3 (legend). Threshold selection for tumor number (genes).

This table is available as a separate file. Cut-off selection for cancer-related genes. Different thresholds were calculated in order to obtain the most enriched list of genes. The table displays the cutoff used, the total number of genes found at this threshold, the number of cancer related genes found in the obtained list, the false discovery rate, the odd ratio and the database used to obtain the list of known cancer related gene.

Supplementary Table 4 (legend). Threshold selection for tumor number (miRNAs).

<u>This table is available as a separate file</u>. Cut-off selection for cancer-related miRNAs. Different threshold were calculated in order to obtain the most enriched list of cancer miRNA. The table

displays the cutoff used, the total number of miRNAs found at this threshold, the number of cancer related miRNAs found in the obtained list, the false discovery rate, the odd ratio and the database used to obtain the list of known cancer related miRNAs.

Supplementary Table 5 (legend). Selected genes from cancer-related pathways.

<u>This table is available as a separate file</u>. Selected genes from cancer-related pathways. Genes included in this analysis in each pathway and their corresponding source

Supplementary Table 6 (legend). Differentially expressed pathways- genes.

This table is available as a separate file. Differentially expressed pathways-genes. Differentially expressed genes from relevant pathways in each tumour and in the selected threshold. Every tumour-type table displays gene name, Pathway name, log2FC (tumor/control sample), log2 counts per million (logCPM), probability value and the false discovery rate (FDR) adjusted probability value.

Supplementary Table 7 (legend). Differentially expressed miRNAs

This table is available as a separate file. Differentially expressed miRNAs. Differentially expressed miRNAs from each tumour type at the selected threshold. All tumor type tables display miRNA identifier, log2FC (tumor/control sample), log2 counts per million, probability value and the false discovery rate (FDR) adjusted probability value.

Supplementary Table 8 (legend). Consistent miRNAs-mRNAs across tumours.

This table is available as a separate file. Consistent miRNAs-mRNAs across tumors. GenemiRNA relationships conserved in the majority of the tumours. The table includes gene pathway, gene name, miRNA name, genomic agreement, total number of tumours where the pair was conserved, gene and miRNA expression (+ indicates over-expressed and – repressed) tumor names and a reference (if available) of the validated pair. Kidney Chromophobe (KICH), Head and Neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSC), Esophageal carcinoma (ESCA), Kidney renal papillary cell carcinoma (KIRP), Liver hepatocellular carcinoma (LIHC), Kidney renal clear cell carcinoma (KIRC), Lung Adenocarcinoma (LUAD), Thyroid carcinoma (THAD), Prostate adenocarcinoma (PRAD), Bladder Urothelial Carcinoma (BLCA), Breast invasive carcinoma (BRCA), Lung squamous cell carcinoma (LUSC), Stomach adenocarcinoma (STAD), Cholangiocarcinoma (CHOL) and Uterine Corpus Endometrial carcinoma (UCEC).

Supplementary Table 9 (legend). High specific miRNAs-mRNAs across tumours

This table is available as a separate file. Specific gene-miRNA pairs in the majority of the tumours. It includes gene names, gene expression (+ indicates over-expressed and – indicates repressed), pathway, miRNA name, miRNA expression (+ indicates over-expressed and – indicates repressed), total number of tumours where this pair is conserved, probability value and experimentally verified reference if found. The name of the tumors are: Kidney Chromophobe

(KICH), Head and Neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSC), Esophageal carcinoma (ESCA), Kidney renal papillary cell carcinoma (KIRP), Liver hepatocellular carcinoma (LIHC), Kidney renal clear cell carcinoma (KIRC), Lung Adenocarcinoma (LUAD), Thyroid carcinoma (THAD), Prostate adenocarcinoma (PRAD), Bladder Urothelial Carcinoma (BLCA), Breast invasive carcinoma (BRCA), Lung squamous cell carcinoma (LUSC), Stomach adenocarcinoma (STAD), Cholangiocarcinoma (CHOL) and Uterine Corpus Endometrial carcinoma (UCEC).

Supplementary Table 10 (legend). Methylation probes for linear models

This table is available as a separate file. Methylation probes for linear models. Illumina HM450K methylation probes employed in this study. For every probe, the genetic position of the interrogated CpG site and the associated gene are indicated.

Supplementary Table 11 (legend). Gene-miRNA correlation analysis of 41 general pairs

This table is available as a separate file. Correlation coefficients and p-vales of multifactorial lineal model regression analyses using tumour type (when applicable), CNAs, methylation and log-transformed miRNA expression as explanatory variables, and log-transformed gene espression as response, for every general gene-miRNA pair (rows) analyzed individually per tumour type (columns), and in a joint analysis comprising all tumour samples (column ALL).

Supplementary Table 12 (legend). gene-miRNA correlaytion analysis of 74 lung-exclusive pairs

This table is available as a separate file. Correlation coefficients and p-vales of multifactorial lineal model regression analyses using tumour type (when applicable), CNAs, methylation and log-transformed miRNA expression as explanatory variables, and log-transformed gene espression as response, for every lung-exclusive gene-miRNA pair (rows) analyzed individually per tumour type (columns), and in a joint analysis comprising all tumour samples (column ALL).

Supplementary Table 13 (legend). Survival data for the general pairs

This table is available as a separate file. Survival data for the general pairs. Cox proportional hazard coefficients and p-values of gene expression vs survival in general gene-miRNA pairs. The coefficients were calculated by multifactorial Cox proportional hazard that included tumour stage (or grade, for PRAD) and log-transformed gene expression values as explanatory variables for survival.

Supplementary Table 14 (legend). Survival data for lung pairs

This table is available as a separate file. Survival data for lung pairs. Cox proportional hazard coefficients and p-values of gene expression vs survival in lung-exclusive gene-miRNA pairs. The coefficients were calculated by multifactorial Cox proportional hazard that included tumour stage (or grade, for PRAD) and log-transformed gene expression values as explanatory variables for survival.

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